

UNATTENDED CHILD/INFANT

POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of children and infants whose caregivers are participating in services offered at Eastern Idaho Public Health; specifically, those who are in attendance with EIPH patrons. Leaving children and infants unattended inside or outside is unsafe and could be considered neglectful. Risks include drastic temperatures, unpredictable behavior of children, and others intending to cause harm to children and infants. It is the policy of EIPH to ensure children and infants are not left unattended on our premises.

PROCEDURE

If a staff member becomes aware of a child/children or infant left unattended, the staff member should take the following steps.

UNATTENDED IN CAR

1. If the situation is dire, take whatever steps are necessary to remove the child/infant from danger. Once the child/infant is safe, call 911. Notify a supervisor.
2. If the situation is not dire and the child/infant not immediate danger, notify a supervisor of the situation.
3. The supervisor will attempt to locate the caregiver. Once located, the caregiver will be encouraged to bring the child/infant into the building where he/she can be attended to by the caregiver.
4. If the adult is not agreeable to bringing the child/infant into the building with them, offer to provide what services you can while the caregiver stays in the car. For example, take WIC checks to the car then reschedule appointments using a cell phone. Reschedule any appointment that requires the caregiver to be in the building.
5. If the caregiver is not agreeable to any of the above, please notify them of this policy, which is to call 911 when children/infants are left unattended in a car.
6. If the situation is not remedied call 911.
7. If unable to locate the caregiver the supervisor will immediately call 911.

UNATTENDED ON PREMESIS

1. Remove child/infant from immediate danger then notify a supervisor.
2. The supervisor will attempt to locate the caregiver and inform them of this policy.
3. If the caregiver is not agreeable and children/infants remain unattended, call 911.
4. Remain with the children/infant until they are safely with the caregiver or authorities.

DEFINITION

Neglect (Idaho Code § 16-1602)

'Neglected' means a child:

- Who is without proper parental care and control, subsistence, medical, or other care necessary for his or her well-being because of the conduct or omission of his or her parents, guardian, or other custodian, or their neglect or refusal to provide them
- Whose parents, guardian, or other custodian is unable to discharge his or her responsibilities to and for the child and, as a result of such inability, the child lacks the parental care necessary for his or her health, safety, or well-being
- Who has been placed for care or adoption in violation of the law
- Who is without proper education because of the failure to comply with §33-202